

**General Assembly**

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Item 134 of the provisional agenda*

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

**Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for
Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations
of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work
programme of the Institute for 2016-2017**

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

In section IV, paragraph 2, of its resolution 60/248, the General Assembly endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium.

In that context, and in accordance with the provisions of the statute (see resolution 39/148 H, annex, article VIII, para. 3) and the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, the General Assembly is requested to approve the proposed subvention in the amount of \$584,600 for UNIDIR from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017. The related provision is included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/6 (Sect. 4)).

The General Assembly's attention is drawn to paragraph 39 of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/70/186).

* A/70/150.



1. At its sixty-fourth session, held from 29 June to 1 July 2015, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), approved, for submission to the General Assembly, the report of the Director of the Institute on its activities for the period from January to December 2014 and the proposed programme of work and estimated resource requirements for 2015 and 2016 (see A/70/177). The present report is submitted to the Assembly in the context of its consideration of a subvention to UNIDIR for 2016-2017 from the regular budget of the United Nations. As a result of the timing of the preparation of the two reports, the financial information contained in the annexes to the present report is consistent with that in the report of the Director. Updated financial information of the Institute, resulting from the introduction of UMOJA and full implementation of IPSAS, will be provided to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the time of its review of the present report.

2. In the aforementioned report of the Director, the Board of Trustees emphasized the observations and recommendations contained in that report, in particular those in paragraphs 23 to 30 regarding the next steps for Member States to ensure the sustainability of the Institute. In this regard, attention is drawn to paragraph 39 of the report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/70/186).

3. The proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017, under section 4, Disarmament (A/70/6 (Sect. 4)), contains a provision of \$584,600, representing the proposed United Nations subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/264, this amount will be subject to recosting in accordance with the established procedures.

4. Under section IV of General Assembly resolution 44/201 B, entitled "Subvention from the regular budget to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research", the Secretary-General is required to report annually to the Assembly on the situation of the Institute. In this context, the financial situation of the Institute (details of which are included in annexes I to II of the present note) may be summarized as follows:

(a) Funds available at the beginning of 2015 amounted to \$1,603,900. Those funds are already committed in accordance with donor agreements;

(b) Total income for 2015 is estimated at \$3,165,000 from the following sources: voluntary contributions and public donations (\$2,802,500); interest and miscellaneous income (\$27,900); inter-organizational contributions (\$30,800); and the subvention from the United Nations regular budget (\$303,800). It is also estimated that, of the total voluntary contributions and public donations, approximately 85 per cent will be used for special projects and 15 per cent for other purposes, including administrative costs;

(c) Total expenditure for 2015 is estimated at \$2,785,500, including a provision of \$143,200 for programme support costs. Requirements for 2016 are estimated at \$2,968,600, inclusive of \$147,700 for programme support costs;

(d) Available funds at the beginning of 2016 are estimated at \$1,961,100. Those funds are already committed in accordance with donor agreements.

5. Estimates of income from voluntary contributions, broken down by country (see A/68/80, annex III) are not included in the present note. This is in line with the report of the Director of UNIDIR on the activities of the Institute for the period from January to December 2014 and the proposed programme of work and financial plan for 2015 and 2016, which bases revenue estimates on the average of the past six years with a projected increase of 1 per cent. In the absence of agreed funding commitments, a country-by-country estimate cannot be provided in advance.
6. It is recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/248, endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the Institute be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium.
7. Accordingly, the General Assembly is hereby requested to approve a subvention to UNIDIR of \$584,600 (before recosting) from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2016-2017, the provision for which has been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

Annex I

Income and expenditure estimates for 2015-2016

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Item</i>	<i>2015 (estimates)</i>	<i>2016 (estimates)</i>
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	1 603.9 ^a	1 961.0 ^a
B. Income:		
Voluntary contributions and public donations	2 802.5 ^b	2 870.4 ^c
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	303.8	292.3 ^d
Other inter-organizational contributions	30.8 ^b	34.3
Interest and miscellaneous income	27.9	30.4
Total income	3 165.0	3 227.4
C. Total funds available	4 768.9	5 188.4
D. Prior period adjustments	3.1	0.3
E. Refunds to donors	41.1	48.0
F. Prior period obligations	15.7	18.4
G. Expenditure	2 785.5	2 968.6
H. Fund balance at end of year	1 961.1	2 190.5

^a These funds are already committed in accordance with donor agreements.^b Projections for 2015 are based on the average for 2009-2014, plus 1 per cent (except for the subvention from the regular budget, interest income and institutional staff costs).^c Projections for 2016 are based on the average for 2010-2015, plus 1 per cent (except for the subvention from the regular budget, interest income and institutional staff costs).^d Represents 50 per cent of the subvention provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, pending recosting for the biennium 2016-2017.

Annex II

Estimated resource requirements for 2015-2016

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Resource requirements</i>	<i>2015^a (estimates) (1)</i>	<i>2016^a (estimates) (2)</i>	<i>Increase/ decrease (2-1)</i>
A. Direct administrative costs:			
<i>Institutional costs:</i>			
Staff and other personnel costs	991.7	1 167.6	175.9
Institutional travel	15.9	15.2	(0.7)
Other operating expenses	57.4	60.7	3.3
<i>Project-related costs:</i>			
Staff and other personnel costs	1 246.5	1 238.7	(7.8)
Travel	126.1	123.1	(3.0)
Contractual services	79.2	72.7	(6.5)
Acquisition	15.9	14.9	(1.0)
Fellowships, grants and others	109.7	128.0	18.3
Total A	2 642.4	2 820.9	178.5
B. Programme support costs:			
(5 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	143.2	147.7	4.5
Total expenditure (A + B)	2 785.6	2 968.6	183.0
C. Operating cash reserve:			
(15 per cent of expenditure on contributions other than from the European Union, less United Nations subvention and 5 per cent on contributions from the European Union)	271.8	303.0	31.2
Grand total (A + B + C)	3 057.4	3 271.6	214.2

^a These figures may be increased upon confirmation of current funding proposals.